

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /061 W
-----123625 100405Z /72
R 091522Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7424

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CI
SUBJECT: GOC COMPTROLLER GENERAL ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO RETIRE

1. COMPTROLLER GENERAL HECTOR HUMERES, A KEY GOC CARREER CIVIL SERVANT WHO HAS HELD OFFICE SINCE 1967, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL SHORTLY RETIRE FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE. HIS OFFICE SERVES AS A CENTRAL FISCAL CONTROL POINT FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AS A LEGAL REVIEW BOARD FOR ALL SUPREME DECREES ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT; AND REVIEWS ALL DECREE LAWS FOR TECHNICAL CORRECTNESS BEFORE THEIR PROMULGATION. HUMERES DID NOT GIVE ANY REASONS FOR HIS DECISION. HE HAS REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT TO INFORM PINOCHET DIRECTLY.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF DECREE LAW 2052 IN THE DECEMBER 1 "DIARIO OFICIAL" WHICH IN EFFECT CHECKS THE COMPTROLLER'S FISCAL POWERS AND ABOLISHES THE FIXED PERCENTAGE OF THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE BUDGET ASSIGNED TO IT. UNDER THE HEADING OF "COMPLEMENTARY NORMS OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION," THE DECREE TRANSFERS TO THE EXECUTIVE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S POWER TO REQUEST ALL GOC OFFICES TO SUBMIT "THOSE REPORTS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE OUTPUT AND RESULTS," AND ELIMINATES A DECREE PROVISION ALLOWING HIS OFFICE TO RECEIVE .35 PERCENT OF THE GOC BUDGET (IT HAD BEEN REDUCED FRO .39 PERCENT IN 1975). THE COMPTROLLER

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WILL RECEIVE A SET AMONT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978, WHICH COMPTROLLER OFFICIALS TOLD THE PRESS REPRESENTED .29 PERCENT OF THE 1978 BUDGET.

3. COMMENT: THE FISCAL POWERS AND BUDGETARY AUTONOMY WITH WHICH THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL, OFTER VIEWED AS THE FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, OPERATED HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A

RECURRING DEBATE. "QUE PASA" IN A RECENT ARTICLE TITLE "A GROWING POWER" PRESENTED THE THINKING OF MANY GOC OFFICIALS, CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ALVARO BARDON AMONG THEM, THAT THE COMPTROLLER'S POWER WAS DISPROPORTIONATE TO HIS TRUE RULE AND SUGGESTED THAT ALL THIS COULD END. HUMERES ENJOYED A LIFE-LONG APPOINTMENT. HIS DECISION TO RESIGN IS PRESUMABLY A PROTEST AGAINST EFFORTS TO RESTRICT THE ROLE AND AUTONOMY OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S OFFICE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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